



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**ESTIMATION OF RICE EVAPOTRANSPIRATION IN PADDY FIELDS  
USING REMOTE SENSING AND FIELD MEASUREMENTS**

**HASSAN SAAD MOHAMMED HILMI.**

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**By**

**HASSAN SAAD MOHAMMED HILMI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**December 2005**



## *Dedication*

*To my wife, Fairouz, my son Ahmed and my Family, with your love and support, I have accomplished one of my goals*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**December 2005**

**Chairman: Associate Professor Abdul Rashid Mohamed Shariff, PhD**

**Faculty: Engineering**

Water resources are limited in many parts of the world. Due to the fast growing world population, the demand for domestic and industrial water use is increasing tremendously. This results in reduction of water for agricultural use, especially for major rice growing areas which needs huge amounts of water. The study was carried out in the northwest of Selangor, in the Tanjung Karang Rice Irrigation Project Malaysia. The objectives of this study were to estimate the rice evapotranspiration using satellite data and compare it with the field measurements. Eight sets of non-weighing lysimeters (91 cm x 91 cm x 61 cm) with attached casella hook were installed to measure the crop evapotranspiration at five different locations within the 19000 ha rice irrigation scheme. Global positioning system (GPS) was used to locate the lysimeter position. The rice yields in the lysimeters were manually measured for three seasons. An automatic meteorological station was installed inside the field to collect data required for calculations of the crop evapotranspiration using the CROPWAT software. NOAA satellite data was used as data input to correlate the remote sensing data with field evapotranspiration data. For three seasons, the off (dry)

season from December to May, the main (wet) season from July to November, the observed ET from the lysimeters ranged from 3.2 to 5.8 mm/day, while ET by calculation using weather parameters ranged from 3.15 to 5.72 mm/day. There was no significant difference between the blocks in the first season of the experiment because of the small area and not much difference in the environmental conditions within the block. Most of the correlation for the second and the third season were significant at 0.01%. The corresponding ET values from satellite data were 4.04 to 6.54 mm/day. Considering ET measured by lysimeter as the most accurate method, ET determined using satellite data overestimates and by computed method underestimates those obtained by lysimeter. ET<sub>c</sub> by NOAA data were found to overestimate by 8% to 12% with an average of 10%. Using CROPWAT, ET<sub>c</sub> were found to be underestimated between 7% and 20% with an average of 14%.

The significance findings of this research are that ET can be estimated for paddy areas in Malaysia with reasonable accuracy using satellite data or computed method. The implications are that much time and cost can be saved using these alternative techniques compared to manual data collection from lysimeters. This will result more efficient water management planning in the rice areas.

Generally, by knowing the actual ET, the cropping calendar can be prepared at the beginning of the cultivation season by knowing the amounts of water needed throughout the season.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PANGGARAN PENYEJATPELUHAN PADI DI SAWAH MENGGUNAKAN  
KAEDAH PENDERIAN JAUH DAN PENGUKURAN DI LAPANGAN**

Oleh

**HASSAN SAAD MOHAMMED HILMI**

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Sumber air sangat terhad di kebanyakan tempat di dunia. Populasi dunia yang semakin bertambah menyebabkan permintaan bagi kegunaan air dalam negeri dan industri meningkat secara mendadak. Keadaan ini menyebabkan penggunaan air untuk pertanian berkurangan terutamanya di kawasan penting penanaman padi. Kajian ini telah dijalankan di bahagian barat-laut Selangor iaitu kawasan projek Pengairan Padi Tanjung Karang. Objektif kajian ini ialah untuk menganggar sejatantranspirasi padi menggunakan data satelit dan menbandingkannya dengan ukuran yang di dapati di bendang. Lapan set lysimeter yang tidak menimbang berukuran (91cm x 91cm x 61cm) bersama cangkuk 'casella' di pasang untuk mengukur sejatantranspirasi padi pada lima bahagian tempat di kawasan rancangan pengairan yang berukuran 19000 hektar. Sistem penentu kedudukan global (GPS) digunakan untuk melokasikan kedudukan lysimeter. Hasil padi diukur secara manual untuk tiga musim. Stesen 'cuaca' automatik dipasang dalam bendang untuk mengumpul data yang diperlukan bagi mengira sejatantranspirasi tanaman

menggunakan perisian 'CROPWAT'. Data satelit 'NOAA' digunakan sebagai data ke masukan untuk menghubungkan data 'remote sensing' dengan data sejatantranspirasi di bendang. Nilai ET yang diperhatikan dari 'lysimeter' berada dalam julat 3.2 mm/hari kepada 5.8mm/hari, manakala nilai ET dari pengiraan menggunakan parameter cuaca berada dalam julat 3.15 kepada 5.72mm/hari. Tiada perubahan signifikan pada musim pertama eksperimen kerana luas kawasan yang kecil dan tiada banyak perubahan keadaan persekitaran di antara blok. Kebanyakan korelasi bagi musim kedua dan ketiga adalah signifikan pada 0.01%. Nilai ET sepadan dari data satelit ialah 4.04 mm/hari kepada 6.54 mm/hari. Dengan menganggapkan ukuran ET dari lysimeter sebagai kaedah yang paling tepat, ET yang ditentukan menggunakan data satelit melebihi anggaran data dari lysimeter sebanyak 10% dan CROPWAT mengurangi anggaran sebanyak 14%.

Penemuan yang signifikan daripada penyelidikan ini ialah nilai ET dapat dianggarkan dalam had yang munasabah bagi kawasan padi di Malaysia dengan menggunakan data Satelit atau perisian CROPWAT. Implikasi daripada penemuan ini ialah banyak masa dan kos dapat dijimatkan dengan menggunakan teknik alternatif ini berbanding kaedah manual menggunakan lysimeter. Ini akan menghasilkan kaedah perancangan pengurusan air yang lebih cekap. Secara umumnya dengan mengetahui nilai sebenar ET, kalendar tanaman boleh disediakan pada permulaan musim penanaman setelah mengetahui jumlah air yang diperlukan sepanjang musim berkenaan.

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It is possible for me to achieve this goal of completing my PhD because of them.

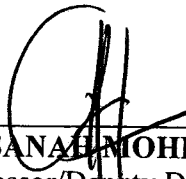
I certify that an Examination Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005 to conduct the final examination of Hassan Saad Mohammed Hilmi on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled "Estimation of Rice Evapotranspiration in Paddy Fields Using Remote Sensing and Field Measurements" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for equations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or currently submitted for any other degree at **UPM** or other institutions.



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**HASSAN SAAD MOHAMMED HILMI**

Date: 10.01-06

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DEDICATION</b>	<b>Page</b> ii
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xvi
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xviii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xxi
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	24
1.1 Use of Remote Sensing in Agriculture Water Management	24
1.2 Problem Statement	27
1.3 Objectives of the Study	28
1.4 Scope of the Study	28
1.5 Arrangement of the Thesis	29
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	30
2.1 Evapotranspiration Process	30
2.1.1 Evaporation	30
2.1.2 Factors Affecting Evapotranspiration	31
2.1.2.1 Weather Parameters	32
2.1.2.2 Crop Factors	32
2.1.3 Management and Environmental Conditions	32
2.1.4 Reference Crop Evapotranspiration (ET <sub>o</sub> )	35
2.1.5 Crop Evapotranspiration under Standard Conditions (ET <sub>c</sub> )	36
2.1.6 Crop Evapotranspiration under Non-Standard Conditions (ET <sub>c</sub> adj)	37
2.1.7 Determining Evapotranspiration	37
2.1.7.1 Lysimeter Method	38
2.1.7.2 Energy Balance and Microclimatological Methods	40
2.1.7.3 Soil Water Balance	43
2.1.8 Methods for Standard Evapotranspiration	44
2.1.9 Penman-Monteith Equation	47
2.1.10 FAO Penman-Monteith Equation	48
2.1.11 Meteorological Factors Determining ET	50
2.1.11.1 Solar Radiation	51
2.1.11.2 Air Temperature	51
2.1.11.3 Air Humidity	52
2.1.11.4 Wind Speed	52
2.1.11.5 Atmospheric Pressure (P)	54
2.1.11.6 Latent Heat of Vaporization (l)	54
2.1.11.7 Psychrometric Constant ( $\gamma$ )	55
2.1.11.8 Air Temperature	56
	xii

2.1.11.9	Air Humidity	58
2.1.11.10	Vapor Pressure	58
2.1.11.11	Dew Point Temperature	60
2.1.11.12	Relative Humidity	60
2.2	Global Positioning System	61
2.2.1	Global Navigation System	62
2.2.2	Mapping from GPS Data	62
2.3	The Geographic Information System (GIS)	63
2.3.1	Definitions of Geographic Information System	64
2.3.2	Input Data	65
2.3.3	Data Storage	66
2.3.4	Data Manipulation and Analysis	67
2.3.5	Data Output and Presentation	68
2.3.6	Irrigation Water Management Using GIS and Real Time ET Derived From Satellite Data	69
2.4	Possible Applications of Remote Sensing	69
2.4.1	General	69
2.4.2	Background of Remote Sensing Achievements in Water Resources	70
2.4.2.1	Categorical Steps	70
2.5	Rice Plantation	76
2.5.1	Irrigation Water in Rice Production	76
2.5.2	Rice in Malaysia	77
<b>3</b>	<b>MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	<b>79</b>
3.1	General	79
3.2	Location and Topography of the Study Area	79
3.2.1	Climate	82
3.2.2	Soil Characteristics	82
3.3	Data Acquisition	83
3.3.1	Lysimeter Experiment	83
3.3.2	Locating Lysimeters by Global Positioning System GPS	85
3.3.3	Meteorological Data	88
3.3.3.1	Weather Station	89
3.4	Crop Evapotranspiration (ET <sub>c</sub> )	91
3.4.1	Calculation Procedures	92
3.4.1.1	Mean Saturation Vapor Pressure ( $e_s$ )	92
3.4.1.2	Slope of Saturation Vapor Pressure Curve ( $\Delta$ )	93
3.4.1.3	Actual Vapor Pressure ( $e_a$ ) Derived from Relative Humidity Data	95
3.4.1.4	Vapor Pressure Deficit ( $e_s - e_a$ )	97
3.4.1.5	Extraterrestrial Radiation ( $R_a$ )	97
3.4.1.6	Solar or Shortwave Radiation ( $R_s$ )	98
3.4.1.7	Relative Shortwave Radiation ( $R_s/R_{so}$ )	98
3.4.1.8	Relative Sunshine Duration ( $n/N$ )	99
3.4.1.9	Albedo ( $a$ ) and Net Solar Radiation ( $R_{ns}$ )	100
3.4.1.10	Net Long Wave Radiation ( $R_{nl}$ )	101

3.4.1.11	Net Radiation (Rn)	101
3.4.1.12	Soil Heat Flux (G)	102
3.4.2	CROPWAT - a computer Program for Irrigation Planning and Management	102
3.4.3	Remote Sensing Data	104
3.4.4	Satellite Data Processing Methods	108
3.4.4.1	Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL)	108
3.4.5	Data Analysis	110
3.4.5.1	Lysimeter Data	110
3.4.5.2	Evapotranspiration from Weather Parameters	110
3.4.5.3	Calculation of NDVI	111
3.4.5.4	Radiometric Calibration	112
3.4.5.5	Surface Temperature Calculations	113
3.4.5.6	Thermal Channel Calibration	114
3.5	Statistical Analysis	115
3.5.1	Descriptive Statistics	115
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>118</b>
4.1	General	118
4.2	Lysimeter Evapotranspiration	118
4.2.1	Lysimeter Evapotranspiration February – May 2003 season	118
4.2.2	Lysimeter Evapotranspiration August – December 2003 Season	122
4.2.3	Lysimeter Evapotranspiration February – May 2004 off Season	124
4.3	Calculated ET from Weather Parameters	126
4.3.1	Calculations of ETo	126
4.3.2	Crop Coefficient	127
4.3.3	Calculations of Crop Evapotranspiration (ETc)	127
4.3.3.1	Computed ETc August – December 2003 Season	127
4.3.3.2	Computed ETc February – May 2004 off Season	131
4.4	Satellite Derived Evapotranspiration	135
4.4.1	Calculation of Normalized Differential Vegetation Index	135
4.4.2	Calculation of Surface Temperature	140
4.4.3	Calculations of Other Parameters	140
4.4.4	Application of SEBAL Model	140
4.4.4.1	Descriptive Statistics of Evapotranspiration by SEBAL August– December 2003 Main Season	140
4.4.4.2	Descriptive Statistics of Evapotranspiration by SEBAL February – May 2004 Season	142
4.5	Calculations of Evapotranspiration by SEBAL	144
4.5.1	Evapotranspiration Using SEBAL model in the August - December 2003 Main Season	144
4.5.2	Statistical Analysis for Testing the Model Performance	147
4.5.3	Evapotranspiration Using SEBAL Model in the February - May 2004 off Season	148
4.5.4	Statistical Analysis for Testing the Model Performance	151
4.5.5	Spatial Variability of Evapotranspiration in the Mid of the Season	152

4.5.6	Spatial Variability of Evapotranspiration in the End of the Season	153
4.6	Comparison of Lysimeter, Computed and Satellite derived ET	153
4.6.1	Comparison Based on Growth Stages	154
4.6.2	August - December 2003 Season	157
4.6.3	February - May 2004 off Season	163
4.7	Validation of Modification of SEBAL Model	167
4.7.1	Lysimeter and Computed Data	167
4.7.2	Remote Sensing Data	169
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>172</b>
5.1	Summary	172
5.2	Conclusions	173
5.3	Recommendations for Further Work	176
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>178</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>185</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR</b>	<b>210</b>



## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Psychometric Constant ( $\Gamma$ ) For Different Altitudes ( $Z$ ) (FAO, 1977)	56
2. Different Satellite Overpass Characteristics (Bastiaanssen, 2000)	73
3. NOAA AVHRR Characters	74
4. Selected Compartments For Experiment	80
5. Geographic Positions Of The Lysimeters	87
6. Locations Of Weather Stations In The Irrigation Scheme	90
7. Descriptive Statistics Of ET: Feb – May 2003 Off Season Sawah Sempadan	121
8. Correlations Between Sawah Sempadan Plots Feb. – May 2003 Off Season	122
9. Descriptive Statistics Of ET Aug. - Dec. 2003 Main Season	123
10. Irrigation Compartments Correlations Aug. - Dec. Main Season 2003	124
11. Descriptive Statistics For Value Of ET Feb. – May 2004 Off Season	125
12. Correlations Between Irrigation Compartments Feb. – May 2004 Season	126
13. Calculations Of ET <sub>c</sub> From CROPWAT ET <sub>o</sub>	128
14. Descriptive Statistics For Computed ET <sub>c</sub> For Values Of ET Aug. Dec. 2003 Main Season	130
15. Correlation Between Compartments In Computed ET <sub>c</sub> Aug. Dec. 2003 Main Season	131
16. Calculations Of ET <sub>c</sub> From CROPWAT ET <sub>o</sub>	132
17. Descriptive Statistics For Computed ET Feb. – May 2004 Off Season	134
18. Correlation Between Compartments In Computed Etc Feb. – May 2004 Off Season	135
19. Descriptive Statistics Of ET Calculated Using SEBAL Results Aug. – Dec. 2003 Main Season	141



20. Correlation Between Compartments ET Calculated Using SEBAL Aug –Dec 03 Main Season	142
21. Descriptive Statistics Of ET Calculated Using SEBAL Results Feb. – May 2004 Off Season	143
22. Correlation Between Compartments ET Calculated Using SEBAL ET Feb. – May 04 Off Season	144
23. Statistical Results Of Testing The Model Performance For The Main Season 2003	148
24. Statistical Results Of Testing The Model Performance For The Off Season 2004	152
25. Comparison Of ET Based On Growth Stages	154
26. Lysimeter And Computed ET For MARDI RS- SPPP (Weekly Total) (Adopted From Chan And Cheong, 2001)	168
27. Comparison Of ET For MARDI RS- SPPP (Main Season 1999)	170



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Factors Affecting Evapotranspiration With Reference To Related ET Concepts (FAO, 1998)	33
2. Schematic Presentation Of The Diurnal Variation Of The Components Of The Energy Balance Above A Well-Watered Transpiring Surface On A Cloudless Day (FAO, 1998)	41
3. Illustration Of The Effect Of Wind Speed On Evapotranspiration In Hot- Dry And Humid-Warm Weather Conditions (FAO, 1998)	53
4. Saturation Vapor Pressure Shown As A Function Of Temperature: $E^o(T)$ Curve (FAO, 1998)	59
5. GPS In Agriculture (Auernhammer, 2001)	63
6. Data Input Into Geographic Database	67
7. Measurements Procedures For Use In Practical Water Management (Bastiaanssen, 2000)	71
8. Location Of The Study Area Showing The Irrigation Water Supply Diverted From BRH, And The Eight Irrigation Compartments	81
9. Lysimeter Locations In The Study Area	84
10. Micro Lysimeter A (Closed Bottom) And B (Opened Bottom).	84
11. Casella Hook Gauge To Measure The Water Level In The Lysimeter	85
12. The Geoexplorer 3 GPS	86
13. Recording Of Lysimeters Location	86
14. Data Transferring And Processing On Computer	88
15. Automatic Weather Station At Sawah Sempadan	89
16. Automatic Weather Station At Pasir Panjang	90
17. Downloading The Data From The Weather Station To A Notebook Computer	91



18. Annual Variation Of The Daylight Hours (N) at The Equator, 20 And 40° North And South (FAO,1998)	100
19. CROPWAT Output For Calculating ETo	104
20. The Noaa Data Receiving Station Operated By Macres In Temerloh, Pahang	105
21. Derivation Of Evapotranspiration From NOAA-AVHRR Satellite Remote Sensing Data	107
22. Calculating ETc By Single Crop Coefficient Method	111
23. Model For Surface Temperature Estimation	114
24. ET - Sawah Sempadan (Block 3131)	119
25. ET - Sawah Sempadan (Block 3157)	119
26. ET - Sawah Sempadan (Block 3196)	120
27. ET - Sawah Sempadan (Block 3198)	120
28. NDVI Values For August – December 2003 Main Season	136
29. NDVI Values For February – May 2004 Off Season	137
30. Spatial Distribution Of NDVI During Mid Season (April, 2004)	138
31. Spatial Distribution Of NDVI During End Of Season	139
32. ET Using Satellite Data For Sawah Sempadan	145
33. ET Using Satellite Data For Sungai Burung	145
34. ET Using Satellite Data For Sekinchan	146
35. ET Using Satellite Data For Sungai Leman	147
36. ET Using Satellite Data For Pasir Panjang	147
37. ET Using Satellite Data For Sawah Sempadan (Off Season)	149
38. ET Using Satellite Data For Sungai Burung (Off Season)	149
39. ET Using Satellite Data For Sekinchan (Off Season)	150

40. ET Using Satellite Data For Sungai Leman (Off Season)	150
41. ET Using Satellite Data For Pasir Panjang (Off Season)	151
42. Variation Of ETc During The Main Season	155
43. Variation Of ETc During The Off Season	155
44. Variation Of ETc Difference During The Main Season	156
45. Variation Of ETc Difference During The Off Season	157
46. Comparison For Sawah Sempadan (Main Season)	158
47. ET Comparison For Sungai Burung (Main Season)	159
48. ET Comparison For Sekinchan (Main Season)	160
49. ET Comparison For Sungai Leman (Main Season)	161
50. ET Comparison For Pasir Panjang (Main Season)	162
51. ET Comparison For Sawah Sempadan (Off Season)	163
52. ET Comparison For Sungai Burung (Off Season)	164
53. ET Comparison For Sekinchan (Off Season)	165
54. ET Comparison For Sungai Leman (Off Season)	165
55. ET Comparison For Pasir Panjang (Off Season)	166
56. Comparisons Of Lysimeter And Computed Total Weekly ETc at MARDI RS-SPPP For Main Season 1999	169
57. Daily ET During The Main Season at MARDI RS- SPPP	171

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

$\alpha$	Surface Albedo
$\gamma$	Psychrometric Constant
$\lambda$	Latent Heat of Vaporization
$\tau$	Day Single-way Transmissivity
$\Delta$	Slope of Saturation Vapor Pressure Curve
AME	Absolute Mean Error
AVHRR	Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DAS	Days after Seeding
DOA	Department of Agriculture
ERDAS	Earth Resource Data Analysis System
ET	Evapotranspiration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectare
Kc	Crop Coefficient
Ks	Stress coefficient
MACRES	Malaysian Center of Remote Sensing
MARDI	Malaysian Agriculture and Development Institute
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

NIR	Near-Infrared Reflectance
NOAA	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
PF	Precision Farming
r	Correlation Coefficient
RH	Relative Humidity
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
Rn	Net Radiation
RSO	Rectified Skew Orthomorphic
SEBAL	Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land
Tmax	Maximum Temperature
Tmin	Minimum Temperature
U	Theil's Inequality Coefficient

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Use of Remote Sensing in Agriculture Water Management

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the major food crop of nearly half of the world's population. Food security in Asia, where about 60% of the world's population lives, is challenged by increasing food demand and threatened by declining water availability. Of the roughly 530 million ton per year rice produced globally, 90-92% is produced and consumed in Asia, where it provides 35-80% of total calorie uptake in the daily diet of 2.7 billion of Asians (IRRI, 1997). However to keep up with population growth and income-induced for food in most low-income Asian countries (Bouman *et al*, 2000), it is estimated that rice production has to be increased by 56% over the next 30 years (IRRI, 1997).

Water is of finite quantity, thus, a limited resource. As such, it should be managed and used accordingly. There appears to be an increasing competition for water use as the demand for water increases with the growing population (Ines *et al*, 2002). Therefore, a rational approach in water utilization is worth considering. Water use in agriculture has been rated the highest among other water users (Seckler, 1996). In Malaysia large amounts of water is required for irrigation of rice during the dry months, and at the same time it is also required for non agricultural uses such as domestic and industry, (FAO 2003). Hence it could give vital information to the development of improved water use. A promising approach is to determine the potential of water, considering its interrelation



ship with the soil, plant and the atmosphere. Available irrigation water has to be utilized in a manner that matches the water needs of the crop. Water requirements of the crop vary substantially during the growing period mainly due to variation in crop canopy and climatic conditions (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977). The knowledge of crop water requirements is an important practical consideration to improve water use efficiency in irrigated agriculture. There is considerable scope for improving water use efficiency by proper irrigation scheduling which is essentially governed by crop evapotranspiration (ET<sub>c</sub>). Accurate estimation of crop ET is an important factor in efficient water management. In Malaysia, ET for rice varies from 644 mm to 968 mm for main and off-season, respectively (Chan and Cheong, 2001).

Remote sensing has the possibility of offering important water resource-related information to policy makers, managers, consultants, researchers and to the general public (Bastiaanssen *et al*, 2000). This information is potentially useful in legislation, planning, water allocation, performance assessment, impact assessment, research, and in health and environment-related fields. Remote sensing, with varying degrees of accuracy, has been able to provide information on land use, irrigated area, crop type, biomass development, crop yield, crop water requirements, crop evapotranspiration, salinity, water logging and river runoff. This information when presented in the context of management can be extremely valuable for planning and evaluation purposes. Remote sensing has several advantages over field measurements. First, measurements derived from remote sensing are objective; they are not based on opinions. Second, the information is collected in a systematic way, which allows time series and comparison